

John H. Davis:

4/3/89

This small item from yesterday's Washington Post book section tends to convince me that, as I indicated earlier, Davis radically ~~changed~~ the book he contacted to McGraw-Hill.

I believed all along that he altered the proposal of a book on Marcello and the mafia into a book on the JFK assassination.

Although I might have been wrong, I also believed that the absence of notes is not really attributable to the space they required. In part only this was because notes are really required for ^{d.i.b} credibility and for reviewers and scholars. I have thought all along that if he had really annotated some of his crap the publisher might have been more vulnerable to suits and the book itself would have been exposed ^{as} ~~and~~ not supported by the alleged evidentiary backing.

There is no possible evidentiary backing for some of it, like some of his fabrications about and involving me. Examples are his fabrication that the alleged "top" mafia lawyer, meaning the immigration lawyer, Jack Wasserman, just rumaged through my files for most of a summer and fall (Wasserman was never here and we never even met) and that I consented to a "formal interview," whatever that may mean, when he never asked to interview me and never did and when he does not list me in any of his interview listings.

Also basic to his theory alleged to be fact and impossible to support is his representation that David Ferrie was a Marcello employee. Ferrie was hired by New Orleans attorney G. Wray Gill, who was also Ferrie's attorney and for whom Ferrie had worked, after Gill sought and got Wasserman's approval.

I am certain that the lawyers who reviewed the manuscript had to see his notes on sources and realized that publishing them ~~was~~ would show those who might be considering filing suit that what they regarded as possibly libelous is without any real factual support.

The McGraw-Hill book lists three earlier Davis books, the second being the one in this notice. This brief item does not indicate that it is a paperback reprint, which I presume it is. I think this reflects the fact that McGraw-Hill did not want to do the paperback and the Shapolsky (Schein's republisher), required McGraw-Hill's assent.

Book

Post 4/2/89 BIOGRAPHY

The Guggenheims (1848-1988): An American Epic, by John H. Davis (Shapolsky Publishers, \$19.95). "The only thing [the Guggenheims] did better than making money," claims the dust jacket of this newly reissued popular family history, "was giving it away." Chronicling the Guggenheim saga in America over a period of 140 years, John H. Davis begins his search for the key to the family's extraordinary energy and talent with Meyer Guggenheim, the original immigrant, born in a Swiss village in 1828, then traces the family's rise through studies of such notable members as Simon, son of Meyer, a U.S. senator at age 40; Peggy, one of the 20th century's great patrons of the arts; and Harry, publisher and editor-in-chief of *Newsday* and president of the Guggenheim Museum and no less than three foundations.